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Preface

About Keith

According to his bio on the openstax.org website, he is associate director of business operations (whatever that means). After more than 30 years (WOW!) at a large public utility, he came to the Controller's Office at Rice University and then to OpenStax. He holds a BA in music from the University of Houston (Go Coogs!) and is a CPA and CEBS.

His CPA was very valuable as he got to Proctor CPA exams. Back when they had paper. He says it was boring, but somebody had to do it!

Coverage and scope

This book will cover all the well wishes for Keith from his colleagues at Rice. Apparently, he's retiring.

Additional resources

Remember when his employee bio memo went out and it included highlights like “has been skydiving” and “knows snake owners?” - Alan Cooke

Most memorable quotes from his Who's Who

9 hours away from Masters in Accountancy when I got stupid and quit graduate school

My lap serves as throne for my rescue cat Miss Kitty
loves to travel, having visited 46 of the 50 States and 23 foreign countries

I have a twin sister

My father's younger brother married my mother's younger sister.
(Yes, that's legal!)

I've jumped out of a perfectly good airplane

Introduction

class="introduction"

(Credit: modified
art by
rawpixel/Pixabay
)



My favorite Keith-isms from the wonderful world of Keith:

- You betcha!
- Those rascals!
- My favorite quote from Larissa: “people are weird”.
- We shall reach for the stars with Astronomy.
- Inquiring minds want to know...
- 'taint necessarily so
- She's on the hook; reel her in!
- Just keep repeating: “Amazon is our friend, Amazon is our friend ...”
- Nope, sorry - you've used up all your Keith points today!

-Bonne Brown

Howdy

Keith,

It has been such a joy working with you over the years. From the time when we were both in RCA, to working with you as our liaison for OpenStax, and most recently working with you in OpenStax; it has always been a great experience.

I was truly surprised, honored, and thrilled when you informed me that you wanted to be considered for the Associate Director position in OpenStax. Having your presence in the office over these past couple of years has been so warming, and I'm not quite sure how we'll get by after you decide to leave us. I hope you'll visit us every so often and update us all on your travels and activities in retirement. Truly wishing you the best retirement ever! Very best regards,

Beth

Keith,

I hope you have come to trust me and know that I will take your secrets to my **grave**. Best of luck! It was a great pleasure knowing and working with you.

Love always,

Adela.

Note:

Keithians

We're all **Keithians**. - Roy Johnson



Lauren's baby shower

Keith! Congratulations on making it through this last chapter of your working life. You're bright personality and charming wit have made OpenStax a better place to work for a lot of people — me included! The way you help people without making them (me) feel dumb about asking for help is pretty great.

I hope you get to thoroughly enjoy your retirement. And you can always come back to the old IBC bank building when you're bored and want to remember what it's like to be a working stiff. Capiche? - Carly

favorite **Keith-ism**: swerving, tire screeching sound effects when you're trying to pass each other in a hallway - Micaela McGlone

Keith,

Thank you for all your years in **RCA**. I really appreciated your commitment to the staff to ensure they were trained and supported in their work. I especially remember your willingness to participate in the on-campus training sessions. Additionally, you became a wonderful source of guidance for the administrators and faculty members who came to rely on you for your knowledge of their awards. Your accounting experience in both industry and at Rice was invaluable when we were charged with reviewing and documenting the internal controls required under Uniform Guidance.

I am sure your years at **OpenStax** were likewise appreciated.

Rice will miss you. Don't forget us – keep in touch. But above all, ENJOY YOUR RETIREMENT!

Terry

P.S. I still remember your untiring efforts to lead RCA in on-key singing of Happy Birthday.



2016 Faculty Club

Keith,

I want to wish you well as you move to the next phase of your life. I have appreciated in countless ways your supervision, rides home and friendship over the years. I wish you and your family great success for years to come.

All the best,

Bryan



Keith's Farewell Lunch

Note:

January 17, 2019

(Seeing Keith walk by) BrittanyJ: Man I can't wait til I retire.

Retirement is the end of one chapter and the beginning of a new one. Let's hope the next chapter of Keith's life is as good or better as his previous. Congratulations! - Ivy

Note:

Debshila's driving

The only thing I have to say is that he doesn't trust my driving, and I am not sure why. - Debshila



2016 Summer

Dear Keith, happy retirement! Best wishes to you and your family. I hope you have an amazing and happy time getting to relax, spend time with family, and travel the world! Congrats! -Theresa

Things Phil Schatz Slacked to Larissa

- I don't see him often but every time I visit he's always happy & chatty (if you start) no matter the time of day.
- I hope you continue spreading joy to everyone you meet
- Keith: What Santa's elves aspire to be

Thank you for being puzzled by the Monday Punday with me and thank you for helping me figure it out when I'm puzzled alone. I will miss you, Keith!
- Britt Weinstein

greatest and most relaxing wishes upon your release from the indenture of capitalism! - ryan

Enjoy your retirement! I hope you see amazing things around the world with your family. - Colby

Hey Keith!

We are going to miss seeing you around the office for sure. I am so happy that you get to spend all your time with your family :heart:. It has been a pleasure working with you for as long as I have been here. You are so kind and thoughtful. You are an awesome person. Thank you for being patient with me as I bugged you with questions and CS favors. Hope you get to relax and enjoy your retirement :).

Much Love,

Meera

Best wishes on your retirement! I enjoyed working with you in RCA.
Julie Goodfriend

Keith,

It was a pleasure working with you in research & cost accounting. I hope you enjoy your next chapter in life. May your new journey be filled with joy!

Congratulations,
Roxie Romer

Keith,

It has been my pleasure to work with you. We have the same work anniversary April 1st. I am inspired by the terrific career you have had. I wish you a happy retirement. I will miss you and your leadership.

Lina Nguyen (RCA)

Bon voyage Keith! I know you have exciting travels ahead of you getting to those last few states! It has been a pleasure working with you both as my supervisor and mentor, and as our OpenStax liaison. Please don't be a stranger and come visit us in RCA for lunch whenever you can.

Take care!

Sandy Tanner

Morning conversations with Keith, as part of the "old-men club" always start my day off on a cheerful note. Somehow, we manage to avoid drifting into "get of my lawn" grumpy-isms. Not sure how I'm going to remember to get tickets for Chamber Music Houston tickets without his reminders! -
Ross

Keith, thank you so much for your friendship. You are the exemplar of what quiet professionalism looks like, and I can only hope to be as wise someday. I hope retirement treats you well and you manage to travel north with stops to see us occasionally! You and your family will always be welcome here.
(Nathan & Holly Stitt)

Keith, You've been such a wonderful colleague and part of the OpenStax team. You've brought a lot of fun and positive energy to our organization and I will miss you immensely. - Nicole

Best Grandpa Ever

Dear Keith,

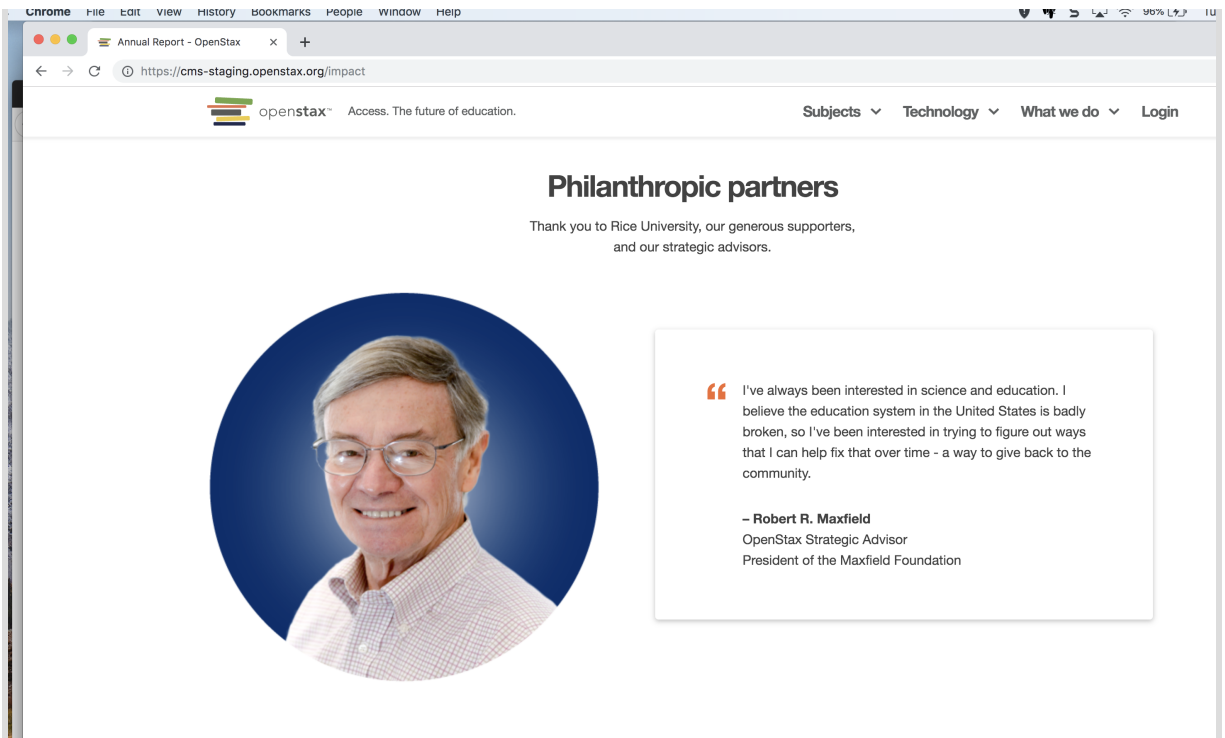
Happy Retirement! I will miss your calming presence, dependable status emails, perseverance with a certain collaborator named after a river/rainforest, and endless positivity and encouragement. I'm so glad you joined the OpenStax family and wish you fulfilling future travels.

Cheers,
Alina



Still from an **OpenStax** marketing campaign video. **Keith** was the top billed star. He had one like - yes.

Note:
Fake Keith



This page was new to testing may be a month ago and my first impression when I scroll down to this image. (Allison uploaded Keith's image here just because its QA/Staging) I don't see Keith regularly so may be its just me who was confused.... - Malar

Dear Keith,

Congratulations on your retirement! Thank you for spending a few years with us at OpenStax. Your kind spirit and helpful nature will be missed. I hope you enjoy your travels and your family.

Send us a postcard!
Micaela

Hi Keith, I heard that you wanted to spend time with family. So here's a once in a lifetime opportunity! How would you like to adopt a grown up child for whom you won't have to pay any tuition, who cleans up after herself, and whose driving you disapprove of already? If you can already guess where this conversation is going, just wanted to say it out loud that I

am available for adoption in case you want to add an additional member to your existing family. =D - Debshila

Keith, wishing you all the best!!! Thank you for all you've done at OpenStax. Hoping your retirement is filled with fun, family, friends, and amazing travels. - Kim

Happy Retirement Keith! It's been almost 9 years since I started my Journey at Rice (Can't believe I've known you this long). You always managed to make fun of me in RCA and you got away with it... You also made it bearable :)

I wish you a very long, happy and adventuresome retirement. Please try not to get lost :) and please keep in Touch.

All the Best,
Stacy Ridling

Occasionally I get into the office early enough to share the entire space with just Keith and it is the most peaceful, serene start to the workday anyone could ever ask for. In return for Keith's soothing presence, I accidentally ambushed him with over 50 Amazon 2-step verification text messages as I desperately tried to log into the OpenStax vendor central account unaware that his phone number was tied to it. - Bey

Keith took issue with my "Best **Grandpa** Ever" t-shirt — he said that at best, I could only be in a tie with him. I pointed out that I had brought doughnuts, but allowed that I might lose points for having no grandchildren.
- Roy Johnson

Note:

tanks

My fav Keith-ism is his way of saying thanks., as in :tank-emoji: - Kathe Conner

EARLY MORNING CREW! Thank you for keeping me company every morning, I'm going to miss our conversations we have while we wait for everyone to come in.

P.S. I can't wait to see the photos of the mustang.

Congratulations,
Jemel



A picture of Alan Cooke when he "accidentally" cancelled Keith Day.

Hello Keith, Wish you a happy fun filled retired life! I haven't heard any of your adventurous travel stories, but looks like I have definitely missed them
- Malar

We're all going to miss you! I had so much fun doing the video shoot with you – thanks to your delivery, your single "Yes" was one of the funniest lines in the video. Congratulations on retirement, and please send us updates now on then on your adventures! :) - Sonya

Note:

Big Cracker Barrel Front Patio Energy

Keith brings a strong “**Cracker Barrel** Front Patio” type energy to the office, like he could be contentedly sitting in the kitchen playing that marble solitaire game. - Alan Cooke

When I walk into the office each morning, the first person I see is Keith. I'll miss that morning greeting when I catch up on whatever it is that he and Jemel have been chatting about while they've had the office to themselves, being able to turn around and get his thoughts on something whenever I need some advice, and, perhaps most especially, I'll miss the **color commentary** he'll occasionally drop in when you don't know he's been listening to you. I'm so happy for you, Keith! Happy trails! - Allison

Note:

I am a little tired...

Kevin: I feel like adapting one of my favorite back-and-forths from Stargate SG-1 to Keith:

Keith: I thought I told you I retired!

Daniel: Oh, I thought you said you were tired...

Keith: Well, as a matter of fact, I am a little tired.

Keith, the hand-drawn seating chart with names you made me on my first week of work was one of the most thoughtful tools someone has made for me. Mom was right, you really are the gem of all friends and colleagues. Thank you for sharing yourself with this organization for so long, Rice and Openstax have been blessed to have you.
- Mallory Guajardo

I don't know Keith as well as any of you because of being remote. I really want to know him after hearing such lovely tales of your interactions with

him. I'm going to miss his positive influence on y'all. - Michael Mulich

Hey Keith, I wish you all the best and wanted to thank you for always being so kind to me. - Marc

“Keith,

You were such a joy to work with in RCA. You're a good person and I'm glad to have known you. And now, my daughter is lucky enough to work in the same place with you. How lucky is that? Lots!!! I always think of that day Alfred and I had lunch with you in Galveston during week 9. He was so happy to meet you and spend that afternoon talking to you. We were the only customers in that awesome restaurant. It's a good memory. I hope you enjoy your retirement. You deserve it. - Rhonda Guajardo”

Note:

Early Morning Crew

“you see, you'll miss me when i'm gone. no one is stupid enough to come in this early” - Keith re: wifi down at 6am

" I've always liked how he quietly giggles through the marcom team's weird conversations" - Dani

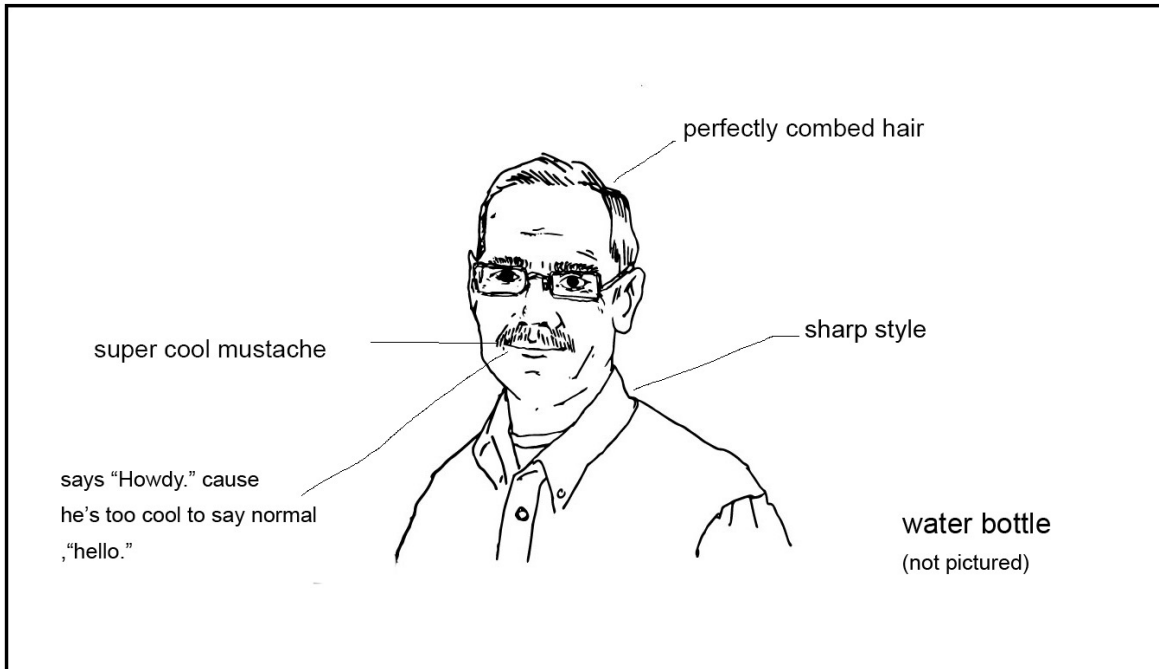
That's it, no more work! Now go and explore the world, learn new things, do nothing or all of the above, in other words, have fun! - Helene

Keith,

You've brightened each of my mornings at OpenStax. I've enjoyed our many conversations over coffee, ranging from family stories to SPARC. I also have appreciated getting to work with you on grant budgets and reports. Even during moments of pressure, you've always managed to bring laughter and a smile. I will miss working with you.

Congrats on your retirement, Keith. Please do keep in touch.

Warmly,
Kate



(Credit: artwork by Osiris Flores)

I'll miss hearing "**Howdy**" as I walk into our side of the office but you're off to better things and I wish you the best! :) - Osiris

"I will miss Keith's reassuring presence in the **early morning** — and he is always helping me find things that need a key --> the owl speaker, cables for the macs, etc. It has been wonderful to lean on his deep Rice experience."
— Kathi

"I wish you a happy retirement filled with fun and happiness. Congratulations and best wishes on your new chapter in life." - Chan Pham

Keith, I am wishing you a Happy Retirement!!!

As you reach this time in your life, may you find JOY in remembering past

success and HAPPINESS in pursuing new hopes and plans. Proverbs 16:31 states , " Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life."

RaKeisha Franklin

Hello Keith. Words are very hard for me and this dumb website is so slow. Every time it's loading I keep thinking about what I'm going to write but all I keep thinking about is how I keep thinking about what I'm going to write. Anyway. Here are some of my dumb words: Thank you for always being so kind. Thank you for always being so positive. Thank you for laughing at my dumb jokes and thinking that I'm funny. Thank you for listening to me complain about how the sink is full of dishes even though I don't really want to do anything about it. Thank you for listening to me complain about interns eating all of our snacks. I will miss the passing of my expense report back and forth between the two of us because I can't seem to get any of my expenses coded correctly. Anyway, congratulations on retiring! Hopefully one day, I too will get to retire. Maybe when you get bored of your family and traveling, you can come visit us or trade places with me. Best wishes and I hope you have so much fun and so many good things because you deserve it. - Larissa